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Message Text

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PAGE 01 YAOUND 00155 151337Z

43
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 CU-04 DRC-01 IO-14 AID-20 AGR-20 EB-11

COME-00 TRSE-00 /191 W
---------- 104483
R 151215Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2394
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY BANJUL
AMCONSUL DOUALA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, CM, SG, XA
SUBJECT: VISIT OF SENEGALESE PRIME MINISTER: WEST/CENTRAL AFRICAN
SUB-REGIONALISM

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REF: DAKAR 51 AND 77

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

1. SUMMARY: DURING OFFICIAL VISIT TO CAMEROON J*NUARY 9*14, SENE-
GALESE PRIME MINISTER ABDOU DIOUF SIGNED COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT
AND CONVENTION OF APPLICATION OF 1964 CULTURAL AGREEMENT
BETWEEN SENEGAL AND CAMEROON. HE REPEATEDLY STRESSED SUPPORT
FOR (A) INDEPENDENT STATE OF GUINEA-BISSAU AND (B)
ENCOURAGING AFRICAN UNITY THRU STRENGTHENING SUB-REGIONAL
GROUPS (FRANCOPHONE) SUCH AS WEST AFRICA'S CEAO AND
CENTRAL AFRICA'S UDEAC. IT NOT UNLIKELY THAT HE FOUND
COMMON GROUND WITH AHIDJO IN CONCERN OVER ANY BROADER
WEST AFRICAN GROUPING DOMINATED BY NIGERIA. END SUMMARY.

2. SENEGALESE PRIMIN ABDOU DIOUF, ACCOMPANIED BY WIFE, MIN-
INFO DAOUDA SOW, DELEGATE GENERAL FOR HUMAN ADVANCEMENT BEN
MADE CISSE AND OTHER OFFICIALS, PAID OFFICIAL VISIT TO
CAMEROON JAN 9-14. (FINANCE MINISTER BABACAR BA DID NOT
ACCOMPANY-CF. DAKAR 77) JAN 11-14 DEVOTED TO TOURISTIC VISIT
TO NORTHERN CITIES OF GAROUA, MAROUA, AND WAZA GAME PARK.
DURING HIS ONE FULL DAY IN YAOUNDE (JAN 10) DIOUF HELD HOUR
AND FORTH-MINUTE DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT AHIDJO (SUBSEQUENTLY
REFUSING REVEAL SUBJECT OF WRITTEN MESSAGE FROM SENGHOR),
SIGNED CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS, GAVE PRESS CONFERENCE,
AND WAS GUEST OF HONOR AT FORMAL STATE DINNER. JOINT COMMUNIQUE
ISSUED AT CONCLUSION OF VISIT.

3. CULTURAL AGREEMENT IS CONVENTION OF APPLICATION OF SENEGAL-
CAMEROON CULTURAL ACCORD SIGNED MARCH 4, 1974, IN DAKAEGM
IT CALLS FOR CAMEROON TO ORGANIZE CULTURAL WEEK IN SENEGAL
IN 1975 AND SENEGAL TO DO SAME IN CAMEROON IN 1976, AND
PROVIDES FOR STEPPED-UP COOPERATION AND EXCHANGES ON BROAD
FRONT.

4. TEXT OF COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT NOT YET PUBLISHED, BUT PRESS INFO
INDICATES AN ESTABLISHED LIST OF COUNTRY'S PRODUCTS

SUSCEPTIBLE OF BEING EXPORTED TO OTHER. FOR SENEGAL*THIS
APPARENTLY INCLUDES CANNED FOODS, FERTILIZER, AND
PERHAPS TEXTILES. MAIN ITEM FOR CAMEROON TO SELL SENEGAL
IS TIMBER. MIXED COMMISSION CREATED TO ENCOURAGE AND
DEVELOP BALANCED TWO-WAY TRADE. DIOUF DESCRIBED COMMERCIAL
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PAGE 03 YAOUND 00155 151337Z

AGREEMENT AS ENLARGEMENT OF GENERAL FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION
AGREEMENT OF JUNE 16, 1972, WITH AIM OF PUTTING COMMERCIAL
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES.

5. AHIDJO'S TOAST AT JAN 10 STATE DINNER WAS FRIENDLY, BUT
BRIEF AND ANODYNE. DIOUF'S TOAST IN RESPONSE WAS LENGTHY AND
MORE SUBSTANTIVE. HE CAME DOWN VERY HARD ON PORTUGUESE
COLONIALISM IN AFRICA AND CRITICIZED THOSE WHO CONCOCTED

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

EXCUSES TO AVOID RECOGNIZING INDEPENDENT STATE OF GUINEA-BISSAU. HE ALSO SPOKE FAVORABLE OF UDEAC AS "COUNTERPART" OF FRANCO-PHONE WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (CEAO). EARLIER AT PRESS CONFERENCE, REPORTER HAD ASKED WHETHER SENGHOR HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO ENCOURAGE PROJECT OF ECONOMIC UNION STRETCHING FROM NOUAKCHOTT TO KINSHASA; DIOUF RESPONDED THAT FOR THE PRESENT HE BELIEVED MOST IMPORTANT THING WAS STRENGTHENING CEAO "IN OUR SUB-REGION" AND UDEAC "IN YOUR SUB-REGION".

6. IN FINAL JOINT COMMUNIQUE, TWO PARTIES INTER ALIA: (A) EXPRESSED CONVICTION THAT PROGRESSIVE CONSTRUCTION OF AFRICAN UNITY MUST BE PURSUED THROUGH SUB-REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS CEAO AND QJEAC: (B) EXPRESSED SOLIDARITY WITH NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN AFRICA AND DETERMINATION TO FURNISH MANY-SIDED AID TO SUCH MOVEMENTS; AND *C) WARMLY GREETED PROCLAMATION OF INDEPENDENCE OF GUINEA-BISSAU AND INVITED ALL NATIONS CONCERNED WITH PEACE AND JUSTICE TO RECOGNIZE THAT STATE.

7. COMMENT:
(A) AS FAR AS APPEARED ON SURFACE, VISIT NO MORE THAN ANOTHER ROUTINE EPISODE IN STEADY STREAM OF PERSONAL CONTACTS AMONG AFRICAN LEADERS. NOTHING PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY ABOUT COMMERCIAL AND CULTURAL AGREEMENTS, OR AFFIRMATION OF JOINT PURPOSES AND MUTUAL RESPECT.

(B) WHILE WE NOT PRIVY TO WHAT SAID DURING PRIVATE TALKS, ITHSOT UNLIKELY THAT SUBJECT OF MORE THAN ROUTINE INTEREST WAS THAT OF SUB-REGIONAL GROUPINGS, SPECIFICALLY THREAT THAT WOULD BE PRESENTED BY ANY NIGERIAN-DOMINATED WEST AFRICAN STATES' ECONOMIC COMMUNITY. SENEGAL'S IQSITION HAS BEEN STATED BEFORE (DAKAR 51) AND DIOUF CERTAINLY TOOK PAINS TO STRESS PUBLICLY SENEGAL'S SUPPORT OF LIMITED FRANCOPHONE
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WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (CEAO). ALTHOUGH AHIDJO AND CAMEROONIAN OFFICIAL* HAVE BEEN SILENT ON THISHKUESTION, IT NATURAL FOR CAMEROON TO SHARE SENEGAL'S WARINESS OF A MIXED ANGLOPHONE/FRANCOPHONE WEST AFRICAN ORGANIZATION EXTENDING TO NIGERIA'S EASTERN BORDER WHICH WOULD MAKE NIGERIA A DANGEROUSLY ENHANCED POLE OF ATTRACTION FOR UDEAC COUNTRIES.

(C) DIOUF CLEARLY AVOIDED GIVING ANY IMPRESSION OF ENTHUSIASM FOR CONCEPT OF NOUAKCHOTT-KINSHASA WIDER ECONOMIC UNION. CAMEROON HAS TO DATE NOT TAKEN ANY PUBLJSTAND ON THIS NOTION, AND MIGHT AT SOME APPROPRIATE TIME FEEL OBLIGED EVEN TO ENDORSE THE IDEA AS AN EVENTUAL POSSIBILITY, THOUGH UNDOUBTEDLY STILL "PREMATURE." BUT CAMEROON UNLIKELY BE TEMPTED TO EXCHANGE ITS PRESENT POSITION AS KEYSTONE OF UDEAC/BEAC CENTRAL AFRICAN SUB-REGIONALISM FOR DIMINISHED

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STATUS AS ONE OF LESSER MEMBERS OF ENLARGED SUB-REGION IN
WHICH IT WOULD BE DWARFTED BY GIANTS ON BOTH SIDES (NIGERIA
AND ZAIRE).
MOORE

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